

# OREGON TREE HEALTH THREATS



December 2023

Square miles known to be infested with EAB: **10.4**

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## ODA finds EAB in 17 out of 109 sentinel trees around Forest Grove

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture has finished checking over 100 trees that were girdled earlier this year. The girdling was designed to attract any female EABs that might have been in a zone surrounding Forest Grove, where EAB was first found in Oregon. Of the 109 sentinel trees (also known as trap trees) that were examined, 17 contained EAB larvae.

The new locations push the known boundary of EAB infestation to the west as far as Gales Creek, and slightly north and south of Forest Grove. This increases the total square miles known to be infested with EAB to 10.4 miles. However, all locations are still within about 2 miles of where EAB was first found. ODA and ODF meet in December to plan for more EAB surveillance in 2024. Depending on funding, the distance to be checked could be expanded beyond the two-mile limit.

To view a map showing where EAB has been confirmed to date, go to the [EAB in Oregon Initial Detections Dashboard](#).

## Agencies are assessing ash forests and potential EAB impact to them

ODF, OSU, the US Forest Service, and the Institute for Applied Ecology are working on a common vegetation inventory system to help identify the current condition of ash forests and the impacts of EAB when it gets to them. Clean Water Services in Washington County and Metro also have their own established ash-forest monitoring systems.

## ODF has posted answers to questions about Mediterranean oak borer

In cooperation with the US Forest Service, ODA and other partners, ODF has completed a document addressing [frequently asked questions about Mediterranean oak borer \(MOB\)](#).



“Because this invasive pest arrived in North America so recently, we do not yet have clear answers to all the questions we’d like to offer guidance on,” says ODF Forest Entomologist Christine Buhl, who is taking the lead on MOB for the agency. “As we learn more, we will update our answers to be more helpful to landowners and land managers.”

## **EAB advice for forest landowners is now available online**

ODF has posted on its forest health web pages three pages of advice for owners of forestland on what to do about emerald ash borer. Funded through a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, the [document](#) explains the signs and symptoms of EAB infestation, discusses whether ash trees should be cut and when, and includes information on potential reforestation requirements if wood from the trees is sold.

## **Latino high school students in Washington County develop EAB plan**

Fifteen juniors and seniors from three high schools (Aloha, Forest Grove and Hillsboro) are working on developing an EAB-response plan for Centro Cultural, a non-profit organization that serves the Latino community in Washington County. The students, who are Latino, received in-



depth information related to EAB and assessed the ash trees on Centro’s campus in Cornelius. Over nine workshops, the students learned how to identify ash trees, measure tree height and diameter, and evaluate tree health. They also learned the signs and symptoms of EAB infestation, as well as the pros and cons of various management options.

Staff from OSU Extension, ODA, ODF, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (Tualatin SWCD), and Portland Audubon’s Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP) worked with the students to develop their EAB expertise. The EAB workshop series was organized collaboratively by Centro Cultural staff (Mariana Valenzuela and Janet Silva-Villanueva), Tualatin SWCD’s Urban Conservation Program staff, and BHCP’s Victor Ibarra.



Students received stipends, paid by ODF, to participate in the EAB workshop series. This workshop series is part of Centro's Climate Justice Leadership Program which launched in 2018 with grant funding from Metro and Tualatin SWCD.

In February, the students will present their recommendations verbally and in writing to the board of Centro Cultural for its consideration. Rainbow Ecoscience, a private tree care company, treated Centro's ash trees to protect them from EAB at no charge earlier this year. This will buy time for Centro to consider and implement the long-term response plan the students will be recommending.

## **City of Cornelius looks to develop EAB response plan**

Following up on the inventory of ash trees in streets and parks that ODF helped complete, the City of Cornelius is working to develop an EAB response plan. The City will likely seek grants to implement parts of the plan once it is written. For example, the inventory showed that 84 out of 185 ash trees in non-natural areas were possible candidates for treatment based on their size and condition. The City could apply for grants to help preserve tree canopy by treating these healthy, large ash trees. Cornelius is also interested in assessing their natural area ash stands.

## **Tree School Clackamas in March will offer EAB class for the public**

The next Tree School Clackamas put on by OSU Forestry Extension on March 23, 2024 will include at least one class on EAB. The annual event is held each year on the campus of Clackamas Community College in Oregon City. Detailed course descriptions will be available in January. To learn more about what will be on offer and how to register, please subscribe to OSU's [Woodland Notes](#) newsletter.

## **EAB-focused presentations from June's urban forestry meet are now online**

Couldn't attend the sell-out urban forestry conference in Portland back in June? Sorry you missed all the timely info about emerald ash borer in Oregon? Well, ODF has you covered. All presentations and panel discussions were recorded and edited into separate videos you can watch at your leisure. Topics include treatment and wood waste options, alternative species for urban and natural forests, and why tree pests appear to be showing up more frequently. To watch, go to <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhtLP-50RDaRJQ-rKksX-yEI3uSNHoVXM>

## **Publications**

*Alternatives to Ash in Western Oregon: With a Critical Tree Under Threat, These Options Can Help Fill Habitat Niche.* G. Kral, and D.C. Shaw. 2023. OSU Extension EM 9396.

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9396>

*Oregon Ash: Insects, Pathogens and Tree Health* by Oregon State University Extension (also available in Spanish at this same website)

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/pub/em-9380>

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*Wood Decay Fungi Associated with Galleries of the Emerald Ash Borer* by the University of Minnesota and Uruguay's *Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria*  
[Forests | Free Full-Text | Wood Decay Fungi Associated with Galleries of the Emerald Ash Borer \(mdpi.com\)](#)

## Useful links for more information

Mediterranean oak borer fact sheet

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/fact-sheet-mediterranean-oak-borer.pdf>

EAB monitoring guidance

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/Documents/eab-monitoring-guidance.pdf>

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

<https://www.oda.direct/EAB>

Oregon Dept. of Forestry

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/foresthealth.aspx>

OSU Extension

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/emerald-ash-borer-resources>

Emerald Ash Borer Information Network, a collaborative effort by the USDA Forest Service and Michigan State University

[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection in Oregon and Washington

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r6/forest-grasslandhealth>

